

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 12793 091300Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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USIA FOR IEU; STATE FOR CU AND EUR/SOV

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SCUL UR

SUBJ: ABC-TC PROJECT IN USSR

REF: A) STATE 194370; B) STATE 197970; C) MOSCOW 12112

1. ABC-TC PROJECT CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN MOSCOW, DISCUSSED WITH POLANSKY (EUR/SOV), IS NOT JAMES FLEMING PROJECT OUTLINED REFTTEL B. ABC PERSONNEL NOW IN MOSCOW SAY FLEMING HOPES TO FILM SOMETIME NEXT YEAR A TWO-HOUR DOCUMENTARY ON LIFE IN USSR.

2. PRESENT ABC EFFORT IS FOR FIVE "AM AMERICA" PROGRAMS AND ONE "WIDE WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT." ADVANCE TEAM ARRIVED AUGUST 23, AND CONTACTED EMBASSY AUGUST 28. ACCORDING TO ABC PEOPLE HERE, DECISION MADE IN NEW YORK TO HAVE SOVIETS PROVIDE ALL TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL. AS RESULT, ABC WORKING WITH STATE COMMITTEE FOR RADIO AND TV TO ARRANGE SCHEDULE AND PROVIDE CREWS.

3. "AM" SCHEDULE, WITH SPECIAL HOST JOHN LINDSAY, CALLS FOR ONE DAY AT KREMLIN, SECOND DAY AT RED SQUARE, THIRD DAY AT ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENT PARK AND ELSEWHERE, FOURTH DAY AT FILM STUDIO, SOTRES, ETC. AND
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FIFTH DAY AT US EMBASSY. FILMING BEGAN SEPTEMBER 9

AND TO CONTINUE THROUGH OCTOBER 10. "AM" SHOW
SCHEDULED FOR VIEWING IN U.S. OCT. 13-17.

4. ORIGINAL HIGH ABC ASSESSMENT OF STATE COMMITTEE
COOPERATION BEGINNING TO FALTER AS SHOOTING SCHEDULE
SLIPS AND REQUESTED INTERVIEWS AND FILM REQUESTS REMAIN
UNCONFIRMED.

5. MOST IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS THAT ABC NEEDS TWO CREWS
FOR FILMING SEPTEMBER 10, AND THUS FAR ONLY PROMISED
ONE BY STATE COMMITTEE. EMBASSY HAS OFFERED TO CALL
STATE COMMITTEE ON BEHALF ABC, BUT ABC PERSONNEL HERE
SAID ABC-NYC STILL CONSIDERING WHETHER TO HAVE
EMBASSY/DEPARTMENT INTERCEDE WITH SOVIETS. DE-
PARTMENT MAY WISH CONTACT ABC WITH OFFER TO APPROACH
SOVEMBASSY.
STOESSEL

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